

Core Teaching on the 1st Principles in the New Testament

Arche Stoicheion is used five times in the Greek New Testament (Gal. 4:3, 9; Col. 2:8, 20; Heb. 5:12).

Original meaning = *any first thing, from which the others belonging to some series or composite whole take their rise, an element, first principal* (Enhanced Strong's *Lexicon*). **2 usages are:** 1) Elements of the alphabet, 2) Elements of any science or subject (e.g. Math, Chemistry, Baseball, etc.)

<i>1st Principles of the World</i>	<i>1st Principles of Christ</i>
<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Before Christ we were enslaved to the world's 1st principles, Gal. 4:3.• World's 1st principles are based upon human philosophy & understanding alone, Col. 2:8.• After Christ we should not go back to these weak & worthless 1st principles, Gal. 4:9.	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• Christian 1st principles are based upon the teaching about Christ, Col. 2:8.• All believers are expected to learn the "<i>1st principles of God's Word</i>," Heb. 5:12 (Amplified Bible).• Failure to grasp & remain convinced of the 1st principles will hinder Christian maturity & discernment (Heb. 5:12-6:1).

Three Life Applications from Hebrews 5:12-6:1:

- ❶ V. 12: *Some people waver with uncertainty over the 1st principles.*
- ❷ Vv. 12-12; 6:1: *Uncertainty about the 1st principles will hinder spiritual maturity.*
- ❸ V. 14: *Building on the first principles calls us to personal discovery & practice.*